

this Boyne," it was built in 1190, by William de Burgh, one of the Anglo-Norman Gefs of Meath. It is the type of several other English castles in this part of the country. According to tradition, Cromwell "made a hole in its battlements," but we will not vouch for the fact.



Bourloughstown Castle.

Again, a few miles, but not farther from Drogheda than the wonderful cairn of which we have been speaking, and we reach *Monasterboice*, a singularly interesting collection of monuments, namely, a Round Tower, the remains of a small 13th-century chapel, other remnants of one much earlier, and three sculptured crosses full of surprising interest. The doorway of the tower is circular-headed; the upper part of the circle being worked out of a horizontal stone: the doorway is wider at the bottom than the top.

The window immediately above the door has the triangular head mentioned elsewhere. The tower is covered with a green moss, and is much bowed and dilapidated. Steps should be taken to repair the upper portion of it, or it can scarcely last many years. Indeed, attention should be drawn to the condition of several of these towers so peculiar to the country, and which ought on no account to be suffered to fall away. We do not want restoration, but simply such repair as will enable them to withstand the weather. The head of the doorway of the ancient church is formed by two stones overlapping and meeting in the centre, or it may be that it was originally one stone, which has decayed. The largest of the crosses is about 20 feet high, and is covered with sculptured figures, loops, snakes, &c.: age and wantonness have so affected the lower part of the stem as to render it likely that, unless strengthened, it will be overthrown. The carving on the second cross is better executed and in a more perfect state than that of the largest: it is one of the most striking monuments of its class existing, and includes groups of boldly sculptured figures, representing the Day of Judgment, the Temptation, and other Scriptural events. The *Irish Annals* have been quoted to show that these crosses were executed at the commencement of the tenth century, and the monuments themselves seem to justify the inference. None should miss seeing *Monasterboice*. The three crosses, two chapels, overgrown with high grass and trees, and the ancient tower, moss-covered, waiting to fall, form a group scarcely to be equalled, and to one standing amongst them a scene of surpassing interest and an enduring recollection.

The earliest of the chapels at *Monasterboice*

is of the same character, and apparently of the same period, as the chapel called *St. Peter's*, at *Glendalough*, the "valley of two lakes," referred to last week. This, and some other similarities, may excuse us for giving here a few particulars of the latter, although it is in another part of the country. *Glendalough*, from which the Bishop of Dublin takes part of his title, is one of the loveliest spots in Ireland, combining the beauties of nature with the works of man. Moore has made it known, in connection with *St. Kevin* and the ill-fated *Cathleen*, to all lovers of song. Of its mountains and waters,—its lake of beauty and story,—*St. Kevin's bed*, and the *Inn*,\*—we need not speak. In the cemetery lie Irish kings, and over it one of the most ancient of the Round Towers peculiar to Ireland throws its mysterious shadow. The tower is called 110 feet high, and about 18 feet in diameter.



St. Kevin's Kitchen.

It has a semi-circular vault, which gives a room between that and the roof. The doorway is at the west end, and has a horizontal lintel and a semicircular arch above that,—the opening, as in the other and similar buildings, wider at bottom than top. About half the thickness of the lintel projects over the doorway 6 inches, and there is an upright hole through this projection on one side, apparently for a pin on the top of the door to work in as a hinge. Some of the angle stones in this very interesting building, which is miserably disfigured by its use as a stable for cattle, measure as much as 3 feet 6 inches on both faces. The date of the building would unquestionably seem to be anterior to the Norman Invasion. These early stone-roofed churches are peculiar to Ireland. Mr. Wilkinson, in his work on "The Practical Geology and Ancient Architecture of Ireland,"† regards them as forming a step between the Round Towers and churches of later date. The room in the roof gives the security, as a place of retreat or deposit, which some think the Round Towers were built to afford. The access to this room at *St. Kevin's* is simply by a hole through the crown of the arch below.

The "Lady's Church," another of the group, has a doorway very Pelagic in character, and wholly distinct from Norman work.

The public roads in Ireland are for the most part good, and there are few turnpikes. The roads, with the bridges, &c. are under the control

\* Amongst the impressions of travellers expressed on glass or wall at the little inn in this beautiful spot, such as,—

"If you value your fingers,  
Beware of the wind-eyes."

with reference to the visit of such lines,—we found the following:—

"We said that Ave churches are Ireland's curse;  
With neither 'tis certain she could not be worse;  
Yet here we find more were once tried by *St. Kevin*,  
But in vain; for 'tis still desolation with seven."—H.  
† Murray, London, 1846. Curry, Dublin.

The doorway, which is about 11 feet from the ground, has a semicircular head cut out of one stone. The chapel we have called *St. Peter's* consists of the ruins of a nave and chancel, the first about 48 feet long and 30 feet wide, the second about 38 feet long: it has a piscina and ambry adjoining each other, with square head. The lower part of the building, 6 or 7 feet from the ground, is formed of very large stones, with little mortar—the upper part of smaller stones. The doorway is in the west wall: it is wider at the bottom than the top, and has a horizontal lintel with a large arch over it, the width of the doorway. In the walls several *frusts* of large stone columns have been worked in, and we thought it singular to find a similar *frustum* at *Monasterboice*. A smaller chapel, called *St. Kevin's Kitchen*, has a stone roof, and a small round tower at the west end carried on it. Within,

of county surveyors. In the county of Cork, which forms one-tenth of all Ireland, and is in two divisions, there are 3,200 miles of roads under contract as to repairs. In the larger of the two divisions, under the control of Mr. Benson, who has under him about a thousand contractors, the annual expenditure is about 17,000*l*.



Doorway of Lady's Church.

The *National Exhibition of the Arts and Products of Ireland*, now open in Cork, is most creditable to those who organised it, and must be beneficial to the country. The temporary building erected for the works of fine art has a much better effect than we were led to anticipate by some of the accounts that reached us. The roof is a semi-circle 53 feet in diameter, and consists chiefly of laminated ribs 12 feet apart, with two smaller ribs intermediate, carrying purlins, and boarded with inch boarding covered with canvas and painted.\*

\* Each of the larger ribs consists of a central board 16 inches deep and 14 thick, with a 12-inch board, a 12-inch board, and a 7-inch board, all 1 inch thick, on each side of it. The hall is 177 feet long, and the height in the centre 43 feet.